

As the Federal Government assumes more control over health care, medical privacy has increasingly come under assault. Those of us in the medical profession should be particularly concerned about policies allowing Government officials and State-favored interests to access our medical records without our consent. After all, patient confidentiality is the basis of the trust that must underline a positive physician-patient relationship. Yet my review of S. 1858 indicates the drafters of the legislation made no effort to ensure these newborn screening programs do not violate the privacy rights of parents and children.

In fact, by directing Federal bureaucrats to create a contingency plan for newborn screening in the event of a "public health" disaster, this bill may lead to further erosions of medical privacy. As recent history so eloquently illustrates, politicians are more than willing to take, and people are more than willing to cede, liberty during times of "emergency." Thus, most people will gladly sacrifice their families' medical privacy if they are told it is necessary to protect them from a Government-declared health emergency, while the Federal Government will be very unlikely to relinquish its new powers when the emergency passes.

I am also skeptical, to say the least, that a top-down Federal plan to screen any part of the population will effectively help meet the challenges facing the health care system in the event of a real public emergency. State and local Governments working together with health care providers, can better come up with effective ways to deal with public health emergencies than can any Federal bureaucracy. It is for these reasons, Madam Speaker, that I oppose S. 1858.

RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS SERVICE THAT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HAVE GIVEN TO THE NATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1020, a resolution recognizing the tremendous service that members of the Armed Forces, especially those who have been wounded in combat, have given.

As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I want to thank the lead sponsor, Mr. WELCH, for bringing this resolution to the floor and his leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank Mr. WALBERG and Mr. HIGGINS for joining Mr. WELCH and me in spearheading this effort to honor those who have given so much in service to our country.

Only 1 percent of Americans serve in the military. Only 1 percent have answered the call to arms in defense of our Nation, our values, and our freedoms. To this 1 percent, we owe so much; so much that can never be fully repaid.

Throughout our history, many Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice for this Nation, and many more have had their minds and bodies wounded for the same cause. In the current Global War on Terror, around 30,000 servicemembers have been wounded,

including almost 400 from Kansas. Their lives and those of their families have been dramatically impacted.

I have had the honor to meet with many of these wounded warriors, both in Kansas and at Walter Reed. Though their lives have been forever changed, they continue their commitment to duty, country, and family. They are a great inspiration to me and those who are blessed to meet them.

Every American has a responsibility to thank these brave Americans. We must vocally honor them. We must honor them by providing excellent medical care, access to quality jobs and education, support for their families, and the resources to live fulfilling and productive lives. But, we also need to remember to say "thank you." "Thank you" for your service and your sacrifice. This resolution is just one more way the House of Representatives can say "thank you" to our Nation's veterans.

In addition to this resolution, Mistert WELCH, WALBERG, HIGGINS and I are helping organize an April 16th reception for Members of Congress and wounded warriors from Walter Reed. This reception will provide Members of Congress the honor to personally meet with these brave heroes. I encourage all my colleagues to attend. This reception will encourage you, humble you, and challenge you to push harder in support of our veterans.

We can never fully honor or repay the sacrifice made by our Nation's veterans. Our veterans deserve so much, and, in comparison, we have so little to offer. But, I hope that this resolution and upcoming reception will take a step in the right direction. I ask that all my colleagues support this important resolution.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF NURSES

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the noble and essential role nurses play in providing quality health care across our Nation.

Our Nation's health care system is complex and every day people with all types of needs are cared for by qualified and professional nurses. Every individual can remember an experience when someone they loved needed health care and a nurse was the first person by their side providing compassionate and essential care. My wife, a registered nurse works on the front lines of caring for Americans and like so many nurses, her devotion extends beyond the workforce; as she goes home every day after work and is just as thoughtful and attentive to the needs of our family. The tireless efforts made by nurses to provide nurture and solace are an inspiration to all.

A growing number of nurses are essential to ensuring all people receive quality care; and our Nation's public health infrastructure has the professionals necessary to respond to natural and manmade disasters. The Department of Health and Human Services projects the current ten percent vacancy rates in registered nurses will grow to 36 percent by the year 2020, representing more than one million unfilled jobs. We must make sure to provide strong Congressional leadership, unflagging

support, and the Federal funding necessary to ensure the United States continues to maintain a steady supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, in honor of their unwavering commitment, dedication, and selflessness, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring nurses and their exemplary service to our community and our country.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE ISRAEL OF LAWRENCE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Temple Israel of Lawrence, New York, on its 100th anniversary.

Temple Israel is the oldest temple on Long Island. It was founded in 1908 as Temple Israel of Far Rockaway. The congregation moved to its current location in 1930. A new school center was created in 1948 to better accommodate the educational needs of the congregation and then again in 1966 with new social facilities. Temple Israel continues to thrive to this day, as the religious and nursery schools have unusually large enrollments.

The Temple reaches beyond just the "Five Towns" and extends around the world. Temple Israel participates in a number of interfaith and cross-cultural programs. There are exchange programs, such as an American Jewish and Italian Catholic exchange program with the Vatican, which help bring about greater understanding and compromise among the participants.

I applaud these efforts of the congregation because I, too, am a strong believer in bringing people with different backgrounds together to find common ground. I participated in the Women's Democracy Fund to help bring women together in Northern Ireland to contribute to the peace process. The program has more recently moved to bringing Israeli and Palestinian women together as an effort to also help bring about peace in that region.

The Temple Israel congregation is ably led by Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum and Cantor Galina Paliy. Rabbi Rosenbaum is the spiritual and education leader of Temple Israel. He is well known on Long Island and throughout the American rabbinate. He works across the international arena in building bridges of understanding and compromise between the American Jewish community and Jewish communities and foreign governments around the world and between Jews and other religions. Rabbi Rosenbaum also worked with first responders and victim's families at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. I am glad to hear that Rabbi Rosenbaum will be joining me in Washington, DC, later this month in welcoming Pope Benedict XVI on his first papal visit to the United States.

Temple Israel of Lawrence is part of a rich Jewish history in the United States. In 2003, Congress passed H. Con. Res. 106, which recognizes and honors America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary. The first known Jews arrived from Brazil in 1654. They established the first Jewish community in New York City. Jews have contributed in so many ways to American society,

including civic, social, economic, military, and cultural life. I am glad to see that Temple Israel Lawrence has played a large role in that extensive Jewish American history.

Once again, I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations and warm wishes to Temple Israel of Lawrence on its 100th anniversary and look forward to another successful 100 years.

POLAR BEAR PROTECTION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to show my dismay that it has been 3 months since the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, missed an important deadline to determine whether they would give the polar bear protections under the Endangered Species Act.

Naysayers argue that the polar bear population is not at risk, but the studies show that an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears worldwide are threatened with "losing their habitat over the next 50 years" because of global warming and melting sea ice.

The U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, predicts that without action, "11 of the 19 subpopulations will be extinct by the middle of this century, with an additional three subpopulations vanishing shortly thereafter."

That same USGS study showed that Arctic melting is occurring faster than any scientific models have previously predicted.

Incredibly, at the same time we are seeing these sobering scientific reports, the Department of Interior has moved forward with leasing oil and gas exploration rights for almost 30 million acres of the Polar Bear Seas. Just off the northwest coast of Alaska, this environmentally sensitive area is home to about 16,000 polar bears.

This is not the time for drilling in prime polar bear habitat. It is the time for protecting polar bears and their habitat under the Endangered Species Act. FWS should act today to list the polar bear as a threatened, or even an endangered, species.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was inadvertently delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on the following: rollcall No. 161 on passage of H.J. Res. 70, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial; rollcall No. 162 on passage of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act; and rollcall No. 163 on final passage of S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACKDOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1077 and to speak about the alarming human rights situation in Tibet and the People's Republic of China.

In recent weeks, we have seen citizens of the world rising up against the Chinese Government's crackdown in Tibet and requesting that the communist regime end human rights abuses. The crackdown by the Chinese Government resulted in more than 100 deaths of Tibetans and the detention of thousands more. The Chinese government has also impeded the access of international journalists to Tibetan areas of China. It is time for this body to stand with these protests and act to protect Tibetans and Chinese citizens from further violence.

Despite the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the Government's human rights record remains poor. Tibetans are not the only victims of China's human rights abuses. We must not forget the persecution of Christians, Uyghur Muslims, Falun Gong, democracy advocates, AIDS victims, journalists, and lawyers in China. There have been numerous abuses in China tied to the upcoming Olympic Games, including media and Internet censorship, sentences on charges of state subversion of government critics and forced evictions. Human rights advocates are being imprisoned for criticizing the Government's human rights record.

The Chinese Government wants to use the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to showcase the progress their country has made. It is my hope that the Chinese Government will take immediate and substantial strides to resolve the situation in Tibet and to address domestic human rights issues in China. Until that time, the voices of this Congress and the world should continue to apply pressure on the Chinese Government. The Summer Olympic Games offer the international community the opportunity to speak up against ongoing abuses in China.

Human rights should be our first priority and our first requirement when we engage with countries. It is our duty to use our economic and diplomatic leverage to make sure that fundamental rights are protected in the world.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to support H. Res. 1077, which calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama's movement is not radical, and it is not violent. It is time for the Chinese to end their brutal treatment of the Tibetan people. It is time for the Tibetan people to experience the inalienable freedoms and human rights that all free peoples should enjoy. Again, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1077.

HONORING KYLE CONNOR COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Cooper Connor of Kansas City, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Cooper Connor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH BRENT FICKES FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Brent Fickes showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Brent Fickes was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Fickes has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Brent Fickes for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING THE TENURE OF DR. EMILIO T. GONZALEZ AT UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and spotlight the extraordinary leadership Dr. Emilio T. Gonzalez demonstrated while Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS.